

ROBERT HART
A. Straunge. 719. 26

and terrible Wunder wrought
very late in the parish Church
of Bongay, a Town of no great di-
stance from the citie of Norwich, name-
ly the fourth of this August, in y^e yere of
our Lord 1577. in a great tempest of vi-
olent raine, lightning, and thunder, the
like wherof ha' b^een sel-
dome seene.

With the apperance of an horrible sha-
ped thing, sensibly perceiv'd of the
people then and there
assembled.

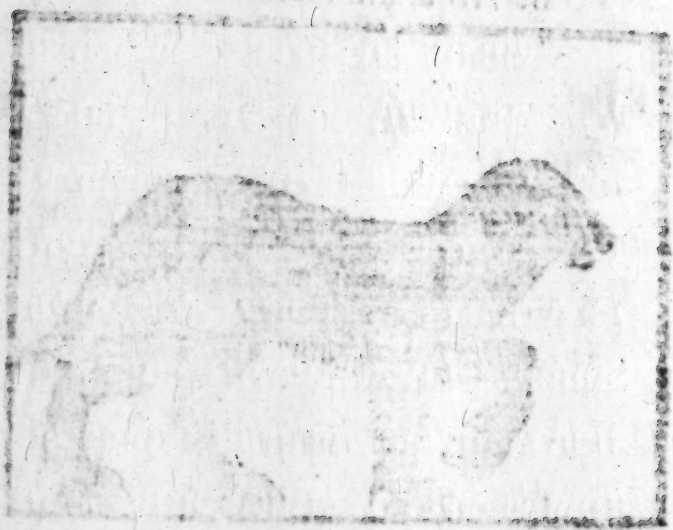
Drawen into a plain method ac-
cording to the written coppy.
by Abraham Fleming.



RECORDS

and various other records
of the various parts of the
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The Preface to
the Reader.



Among men it is
growen in custome,
to haue forwarnings
of afterclaps, as
beacons built vpon hilles, which
then are set on fier when daun-
ger is imminent and at hand:
Alarm belles seruing to the
same purpose, and other inuen-
tions of men proceedig & pro-
vided of policie, to preuent or
else to prepare agaynst that
which is perilous. Euery man
canne arme himself, when ha-
zard is at hand to saue him and
his as hee is able: for the pres-
ent.
seruing

To the Reader.

Seruing of temporall things,
Iesus how painefull and ventea-
rous wee bee: and no sooner
shall a premonishment bee gi-
uen, but wee are furnished I
warrant you to the prooffe.
God warneth vs by signes fro
heauen, by fierie apparaunces
in the aire moste terrible, by
wonders wrought on earthe,
straunge & vnusiall, by exinun-
dations of waters beyond their
appointed limits, by the remo-
uīg of senselesse trees from the
naturall place where they were
planted, by the great power
which the Prince of darknesse
through Gods permission and
sufferaunce hath recovered, by
many

To the Reader.

many late moste miserable
murthers not to be named, much
lesse to be committed among
Christians, by insurrections
full of daunger and detestable
treason on this side the seas, by
tumults and vprores between
Princes of forreigne nations,
and what should I say more? by
the trump of his sweet and hea-
uenly Gospell, sounded vnto vs
out of the mouth of his messen-
gers. But wee will not be war-
ned, wee will tumble still vpon
the bedde of wantonnesse, and
drinke our selues drunck with
the wine of sensualitie, that
whiles wee lye wallowing in the
sinck of our Sodomiticall sine,

A. iij.

wee

To the Reader.

wee may bee consumed with a
Sodomiticall or a Babylonian
call destruction.

God open the eyes of our hartes,
that wee may see in what
Wildernesſes, among what
wilde Beastes and deuouring
Serpents wee doo wander: and
giue vs mindes mollified and
made ſoft, that at his woorkes
we may feare and bee aſtoniſh-
ed.

The occaſion that I haue
wrote this warning (which I
would to God I had the grace
to followe) was a wonder late-
ly wrought in Norfolke, and
ſo lately wrought, that the ter-
rour of the ſame is at this in-
ſtance

To the Reader.

stant freshe in memorie. **A**
Spectacle no doubt of Gods
iudgement, which as the fire of
our iniquities hath kindled, so
by none other meanes then by
the teares of repentance it may
bee quenched. The order of
the thing as I receiued the s^ae
I haue committed to paper, for
the present viewe and perusing
of those that are disposed. It
is grounded vppon trueth, and
therfore not only worthie the
writing and publishing, but
also the bearing and
considering.

Aiiij.

The reporte of a straunge
and wonderful Spectacle.



Monday, being the fourth of this August, in the year of our Lord 1577. to the amazing and singular astonishment of the present beholders, and absent hearers, at a certain towne called Bongay, not past tenne miles distant from the Citie of Norwiche, there fell from heauen an exceeding great and terrible tempest, soeften and violent, between nine of the clock in the morning and tenne of the day aforesaid.

This tempest took beginning with a rain, which fel with a wonderful force and with no lesse violence then abundance, which made the stozme so much the more extream and terrible.

This tempest was not simply of rain, but also of lightning and thunder, the flashing of the one wherof was so rare, and beehement, and the roaring noisse of the other so forceable and violent, that it made not onely people perplexed in minde and at their wits end,
but

in Norfolk.

but ministred such strange and vnaccustomed cause of feare to be conceined, that dumb creatures with p^rhorour of that which soztuned, were exceedingly disquieted, and senselesse things void of all life and feeling, shok and trembled.

There were assembled at the same season, to hear diuine seruice and common prayer, according to order, in the parish church of the said towne of Bon-gay, the people therabouts inhabiting, who were witnesses of the strangenes, the rarenesse and sodennesse of the storm, consisting of raine violently falling, fearful flashes of lightning, and terrible cracks of thunder, which came with such vnwonted force and power, that to the perceiuing of the people, at the time and in the place aboue named, assembled, the Church did as it were quake and stagger, which struck into the hearts of those that were present, such a soze and sodain feare, that they were in a manner robbed of their right wits.

Immediatly hereupon, there appeared in a most horrible similitude and likeness to the congregation then & there present

A terrible Tempest

present, a dog as they might discern it, of a black colour: at the sight wherof, together with the fearful flashes of fire which then were scene, moued such admiration in the mindes of the assemblie, that they thought doomes day was already come.

This black dog, or the diuel in such a likenesse (God hee knoweth al who woꝛketh all) runing all along down the body of the Church with great swiftnesse, and incredible haste, among the people, in a visible form and shape, passed betwixt two persons, as they were kneeling bypotheir knees, and occupied in prayer as it seemed, wꝛung the necks of them bothe at one instant cleane backward, in somuch that even at a momēt where they knaxled, they strāgely dyed.

This is a wōderful example of Gods wrath, no dout to terifie vs, that we might feare him foꝛ his iustice, or pulling back our fōtsteps from the pathes of sinne, to lone him foꝛ his mercy.

To our matter again. There was at the same time another wonder wrought: foꝛ the same black dog, still continuing and remaining in one and the self same shape

in Norfolke.

shape, passing by an other man of the congregation in the Church, gaue him such a gripe on the back, that therewith all he was presently drawen together and shrunke vp, as it were a peece of leather scorched in a hot fire: or as the mouth of a purse or bag, drawen together with a string. The man, albeit hee was in so straunge a taking, dyed not, but as it is thought is yet aliue: whiche thing is meruelous in the eyes of men, and offereth much matter of amasing the minde.

Moreover, and beside this, the Clark of the said Church being occupied in cleansing of the gutter of the Church, with a violent clap of thunder was smitten downe, and beside his fall had no further harme: vnto whom being all amased this strange shape, wherof we haue befoze spoken, appeared, howbeit he escaped without daunger: which might peradventure seem to sound against trueth, and to be a thing incredible: but, let vs leaue thus or thus to iudge, and cry out with the Prophet.

O Domine! &c. O Lord, how wonderful art thou in thy works!

At

A terrible Tempest

At the time that these things in this order happened, the Rector, or Curate of the Church, being partaker of the peoples perplexitie, seeing what was seen, and done, comforted the people, and exhorted them to prayer, whose counsell, in such extreme distresse they followed, and prayed to God as they were assembled together.

Now for the verifying of this report, (which to see wil seem absurd, although the sensiblenesse of the thing it self confirmeth it to be a truth) as testimonies and witnesses of the force which rested in this strange shaped thing, there are remaining in the stones of the Church, and likewise in the Church doze which are meruelously rent & torne, & marks as it were of his clawes or talans. Wee see, that all the wires, the wheeles, and other things belonging to the Clock, were wryung in sunder, and broken in peeces.

And (which I should haue tolde you in the begining of this report, if I had regarded the observing of order) at the time that this tempest lasted, and while these stormes endured, & whole Church
was

in Norfolk.

was so darkned, yea with such a palpable darknesse, that one persone could not perceiue another, neither yet might discern any light at all, though it were lesse the the least, but onely when y great flashing of fire and lightning appeared.

These things are not lightly with silence to be ouer passed, but precisely and thoroughly to be considered.

On the self same day, in like maner, into the parish church of another town called Blibery, not aboue seuē miles distant from Bongay aboue said, the like thing entred, in the same shape and similitude, where placing him self vppon a maine balke or beam, wheron sometime y King did stand, sodainly he gaue a swinge downe through y Church, and there also, as before, slew two men and a lad, and burned the hand of another person that was there among the rest of the company, of whom diuers were blasted.

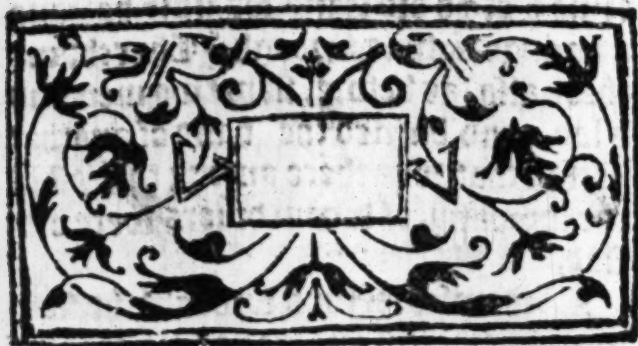
This mischief thus wrought, he flew with wonderful force to no litle feare of the assembly, out of the Church in a hideous and hellish likeness.

These things are reported to be true,
yea

A terrible Tempest

yea, by the monihes of them that were
eye witnesses of the same, and therfore
dare with so much the more boldnesse
verifie what soeuer is repoized.

Let vs pray vnto GOD, as it is the
dutie of Christians, to work all things
to the best, to turne our flintie hartes into
fleshie hartes, that we may feele the
fire of Gods mercy, and flee
from the scourge of his
iustice.



A necessary Prayer.

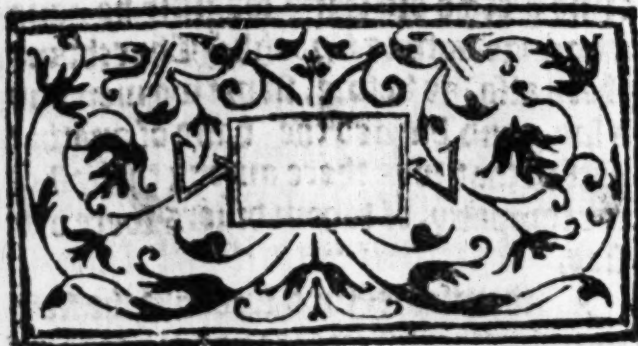


GOD Which hast
promised to be a Shi-
eld to such as flee to
thee for succoure in
their necessities, & w
thy wings to ouer shadow the
that they feele not the scorching
heat of afflictions & miseries:
we beseech thee, that although
we, through the infinite and
vnm measurable sinnes whiche
we commit, prouoke thee to
smite vs with the Iron rod of
thy Wrath and iudgement: yet
that it would please thee to re-
member that we are but fraile
flesh, subiect to sinne, and to too
prone to offend: that it would
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countenance vppon vs, and to
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of peace vnto vs, that beeing re-
stored

A Prayer.

Stored into thy fauoure, from
which our offences haue separa-
ted vs, we may shrowd our sel-
ues vnder the shield of thy safe-
garde against all manner o' annoy-
ances whatsoeuer, through Ch-
rist Iesus our onely sauior & red-
deemer, in whose name, as hee
hath taught vs, We say and
pray. *Ab omni malo libera nos Do-*
mine: Deliuert vs from all euil,
good Lord. Amen.

Tibi laus honor & gloria, in eum.
Amen.

Imprinted at London by

Frauncis Godly dwel-

ling at the west end of

Paules.



A Prayer.

Stoꝛed into thy fauoure, from
which our offences haue separa-
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